

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to reserve the right to object.

I have been listening to the arguments that are made here. Let's get to the facts.

The fact is, if we split this Ukrainian funding now, it is not going to get there quicker; it is going to get there slower.

The bottom line is, if you want to help the Ukrainian people out—and I believe the speakers want to help the Ukrainian people out—then pass the omnibus bill that is in front of us.

The Senator from Florida is proposing just to pass one portion of this omnibus appropriations bill, and that is the \$13.5 billion in aid to Ukraine.

I want to be very, very clear on what this move would mean. If we don't pass the rest of the omnibus, the Pentagon is going to shut down at midnight on Friday. OK?

Now, all our eyes are on Ukraine, and they well should be, but don't forget for a second that China is a pacing threat to this world. We are going to shut the Pentagon down on Friday? I don't think that is a smart move.

Eleven days ago, all the Senators in this body had the opportunity to go to a classified briefing led by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. I asked him what he needed from Congress to respond to the Russian aggression. Do you know what he said? He said: We need a full-year appropriations bill. That is what we have in front of us today.

And yet, the Senator from Florida is effectively proposing to give the military less than 1 percent of what the Secretary of Defense says he needs to respond to threats around the world. That is \$6.5 billion out of \$744 billion.

And for the folks who say this \$1.5 trillion package is a boondoggle, well, let me tell you, then you should stand up and say half of this bill is a boondoggle because half of it goes into defense to protect this country, to make the world a safer place.

I really don't understand what the Senator from Florida is trying to accomplish, but I want no part of it.

Congress should have passed this budget to cover the military needs and cover this country's needs over 6 months ago.

Passing a bill to cover 1 percent of our troops' funding needs is, once again, kicking the can down the road. It is 110 percent unacceptable to me and to every American who expects their government to keep them safe at home and around the world.

This is really, really, really a bad idea, and we should quit wasting time on these kinds of ideas and get to the point of voting on this omnibus bill, getting it out so that we can deal with the Ukraine situation.

And by the way, in the Defense bill, over and above the \$13.5 billion, there is another \$300 million for Ukraine. So it is time to get this ball rolling. It is time to get this bill passed in the U.S. Senate.

Quit dilly-dallying around. Let's get 'er done. There is too much on the line today to keep fooling around.

I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, it is hard to express my anger and frustration.

What in the hell are we doing here?

I asked for the Senate to do a very simple thing: vote today on desperately needed aid for Ukraine, and Senate Democrats have blocked it.

This is the exact text—the exact text—that both Democrats and Republicans have already agreed to.

People need to know exactly why Democrats have blocked this common-sense bill. I know. It is because they are following orders from Senator SCHUMER to block passage of aid to Ukraine so we can continue to hold it hostage in the omnibus.

That is what we are dealing with here.

We could send this to the President's desk today, but Senate Democrats have said no because they are insisting that it be passed with the omnibus.

The omnibus is \$1.5 trillion, 2,700 pages; as my colleague from Wyoming said, 4,000 earmarks. Senator SCHUMER alone has 150 earmarks, \$600,000 for a greenhouse in New York, \$3 million for museum galleries in Brooklyn.

I mean, to him, the omnibus is just a joke. It is a way to send some money home.

Today, inflation just hit 7.9 percent—another 40-year high. And contrary to what President Biden just said this morning, that is just for February. That massive spike in inflation doesn't reflect the big price hikes we have seen in March. The truth is, we have no idea how the omnibus will impact inflation, and we haven't anywhere near the time we need to actually read it.

This whole process is broken, and it reminds me of a truth here in Washington: In Washington, compromise means that both sides get everything they want, and no one has to make a tough choice. Put simply, when Washington settles, taxpayers all across this country lose.

Americans should be furious with Congress. Ukrainians should be absolutely furious with us. While Russian bombs are being dropped on their homes, cities, and hospitals, Democrats in the Senate are blocking the approval of American aid so that they can play politics. Every day that Senator SCHUMER refuses to allow a vote is a big gift from Senate Democrats to Putin.

I am actually disgusted by what happened here today. To see aid for Ukraine used as a political tool is heartless. It is a stain on the integrity of the Senate and the United States. A fight for freedom and democracy rages in Europe, and Senate Democrats should be ashamed by what Senator SCHUMER has forced each of you to do today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, the House is not in session. To say that we are going to pass this and presto chango it goes right to the President's desk—that is not how the process works, Senator SCOTT. That is not how the process works.

So you can stand up and say, you know, we are blocking this aid. No, no, no, no, no.

The fact is, the person who came up and asked for unanimous consent—the good Senator from Florida—is blocking this bill or we would be voting on it right now.

You want to talk politics? That is what this is about—politics.

You can be unhappy with the omnibus bill, but the fact of the matter is, it has been negotiated over the last year by Democrats and Republicans, and that is where we are at today.

We need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about Ukraine, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about feeding hungry people in this country, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about childcare, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about housing, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about the high cost of gasoline, we need to pass this bill. And if you are concerned about the threat that China is to this country, we need to pass this bill.

Enough excuses. Let's get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is my understanding that the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives to accompany H.R. 2471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 2471.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2471) entitled "An Act to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti," do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2471.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4984

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 2471, with an amendment. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 2471, with an amendment numbered 4984.

Mr. SCHUMER. That is the correct number.

I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4985 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4984

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4985 to amendment No. 4984.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4986

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to refer H.R. 2471 to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to refer H.R. 2471 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment numbered 4986.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 4 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4987

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4987 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike "4" and insert "5".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4988 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4987

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4988 to amendment No. 4987.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike "5" and insert "6".

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 35, the vote on the motion occur at 4:15 p.m. today; further, that following the vote, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 547, the nomination of Maria Pagan, as provided for under the previous order; and that following the disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The President pro tempore.

H.R. 2471

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, before I even start, I do want to compliment the staff—later, I will put all of the names in the RECORD—who

worked weekends and late at night. I remember times when I would get off the phone with them at 11 o'clock at night and 12 midnight. I could go to bed, but they were still there working until 3 or 4 in the morning.

Yet, after all of those months of negotiations, the Committee on Appropriations introduced the \$1.5 trillion fiscal year 2022 Omnibus appropriations bill. As I will explain, this is the consolidation of 12 annual appropriations bills to fund the Federal Government for the remainder of the fiscal year. Last night, the House passed it on a bipartisan basis. It is now before us, and we need to act on it quickly.

Our annual appropriations bills are where we reflect on our national priorities. In total, this bill includes \$730 billion in nondefense funding. That is a \$46 billion increase over fiscal year 2021. This 6.7-percent increase is the largest in 4 years for nondefense programs. It allows for significant investments in the American people that will expand the middle class.

The bill also provides urgent funding for the people of Ukraine as they battle Vladimir Putin's immoral, unprovoked, and brutal invasion—an invasion which, actually, labels Vladimir Putin as a "war criminal."

It is unquestionably in the interest of the American people that the Senate act quickly to pass this bill and send it to President Biden. I will tell you why it is so important.

In the wake of the pandemic, children and schools across the country have been falling behind in math and reading, and children in low-income and minority communities have been falling even further behind their peers. One study found that third graders who are attending school in low-income communities tested 17 points lower in math than they did just in 2019. We can't allow a global pandemic to set these children further back on the path to a bright future.

The bill includes \$17.5 billion—the largest increase in more than a decade—for title I-A grants. These grants provide funding for more than half of our Nation's public schools to help students, particularly in low-income communities, meet college and career-ready academic standards.

And to help these children succeed before they even step foot in the classroom, the bill includes more than \$11 billion for Head Start. The bill also increases the maximum Pell Grant award by \$400—also the largest increase in more than a decade—so that as these students succeed they can go on to pursue a college education. Pell Grants help more than 7 million students pursue a postsecondary education every year.

Now, of course, we are investing in these children, but we are also investing in their families. Ask any young family and they will tell you that the pandemic exacerbated the childcare crisis. Parents, and particularly women, are being forced out of the